

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Wilderness Working Group Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2002

Attendees:

Doralyn Genova	Gene Arnesen	Wade Johnson
Greg Gnesios	Duane Carr	Bill Schapley
Warren Gore	Terry Gray	Bob Sherrill
Dari Alexander	Bill Hamman	Harold Snyder
	Kris Hjelle	Julie Stotler

Greetings and Introductions

The meeting was called to order, and in Celeste Marsh's absence, Duane Carr took the minutes. The next two meetings are scheduled for July 16 and 30, at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office. The alternate site would be Grand Vista. Terry Gray's e-mail is confirmed. Terry did not receive the cancellation notice for the last meeting. Dari Alexander is attending the meeting on behalf of Joe Keys.

Working Group Discussions

Discussions opened with spur roads off the BS road. Bill requested a map similar to the one provided, showing existing spur roads (see attached).

Gene Arnesen, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner, and Wade Johnson, BLM Interpretive Specialist, presented the Working Group with highlights from discussions they had with the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Recreation Ranger, Troy Schnurr, regarding spur roads.

Roads "A" and "B" currently provide camping, and those roads should probably be left for camping. Road "C" has already been closed and rehabilitated, and it should stay that way. Road "D" has extensive erosion problems. Road "E" is acceptable for providing camping, but there are concerns with a feasible way to shut off the road. Road "F" has a similar situation to that of road "E." The roads gated before Jones Canyon should remain that way.

Terry brought up the situation with fire, since the area is now facing this. There was talk of possibly closing down the campsites during high-fire seasons.

Bill feels there is a need for camping and that it should be allowed on slick rock. Kris Hjelle agreed with Bill on this.

Warren Gore was concerned with road “B” and felt that allowing people to camp there would only bring in a new route to road “C,” which is being restored because of an old road that leads over to it. Warren was appointed to draft the alternatives proposal for dispersed camping.

The group moved on to the Mee Canyon Trailhead. Bill requested a map of the trailhead reflecting the fence line. Some options for this area are:

- Cherry-stem the road, or
- Have the boundary follow the fence line, which would impact less than 100 acres and be easier to enforce.

The group’s consensus recommendation was to have the boundary follow the fence line, and if this is not possible, then cherry-stem the road. Bill Schapley volunteered to draft this recommendation.

Wade distributed the preliminary plan for Pollock and Devils Canyons. The regulations for aircraft over flights were questioned. Greg Gnesios, CCNCA Manager, thought the over-flight restriction was 500 feet above a Wilderness area, but no one knew the regulations for helicopters. The group agreed that information is needed on those federal regulations.

Discussions then turned to private-property interface issues, and Bob Sherrill distributed a handout summarizing his issues and recommendations. Bob requested that Robin Lacy, BLM Realty Specialist, attend the next meeting, if possible, to make the same presentation to this Working Group as she did for the other groups.

Bill would like everyone to read over the handout and decide which issue to go forth with.

The group addressed the Rattlesnake Arches area. Wade gave the history behind the cherry-stem road.

Issues:

- Parking in the Wilderness along the cherry-stem.
- Access for elderly and visitors with disabilities.
- Noise in the Wilderness (solitude and primitive).
- Is the cherry-stem road manageable?
- Safety and administrative use.
- Historic use prior to Wilderness designation.

There were several suggestions for the cherry-stem road:

- Close the road halfway down, after coming off the steep hill.
- Close the road completely.

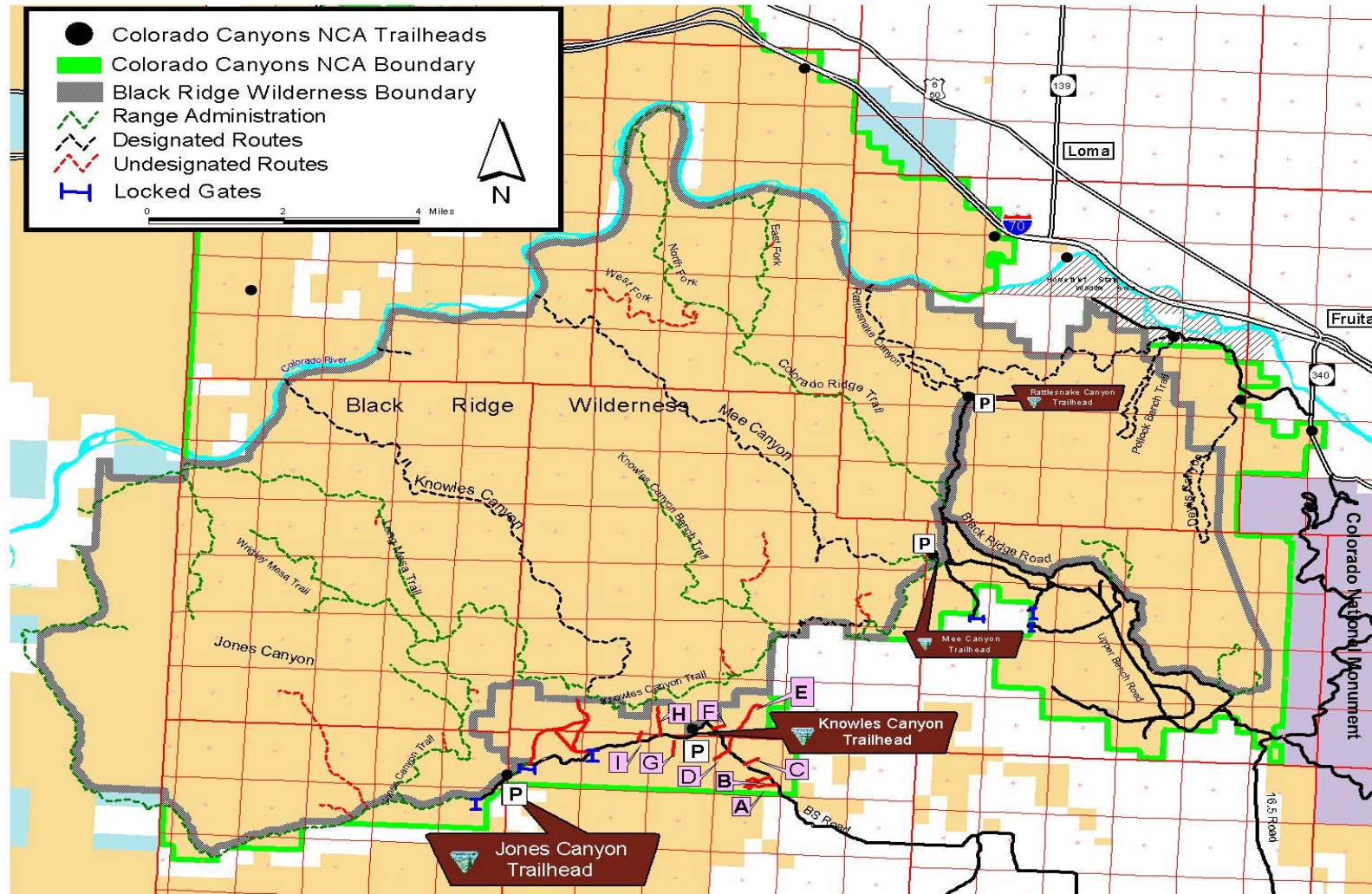
- Institute a permit system after Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) are reached.
- Leave the road open and do not maintain it (restricts access).
- Barricade parking at the trailhead; provide for overflow parking at the beginning of the cherry-stem road.
- Combination of all of the above, excepting the permit system.

Bill Hamman will write up the alternatives for the next meeting.

Kris commented that she would like to see dispersed camping allowed, along the cherry-stem road.

The meeting was adjourned, and the group was reminded that the next meetings are scheduled at the BLM office, unless otherwise told.

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Wilderness Zone



Note to Map User: No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregation with other data.